

Final Writing Assignment

Please answer two of the four questions below. As I indicated in class, you can use any materials from class to answer these questions (including your textbook). But do not talk with your fellow students or other people about your answers. Please stick to the two-page limit for each of your answers. And please submit your answers, via email (ratchley@ku.edu), by the end of the day on Tuesday, 12/16.

Grading criteria for each answer:

4 points for answering the question fully

3 points for the factual correctness of the answer content

3 points for concrete, concise, and precise writing style

10 points total

1) As we have learned about the history of psychology, at many points philosophical dichotomies have developed that have significantly influenced thinking about Man's mind, brain, behavior, and capacity for knowledge. Please review one of these important dichotomies that has affected thinking in the field of psychology. Define and describe the competing sides in the dichotomy you are reviewing and explain how each side has influenced the field of psychology.

2) Select one individual in the history of psychology who has had the greatest impact on the development of psychology as an empirical science. Describe the contributions of the individual you have selected and provide reasoning for why you think that this particular individual has been most influential in pushing experimental psychology towards being an empirical science.

3) What is epistemology? Please briefly review the primary milestones in the history of psychology that have influenced our thinking on epistemology. Also please define and describe your own personal epistemological philosophy.

4) What is free will? First, please define this concept as it has been used in the history of psychology. Secondly, please review three independent theories in philosophy or psychology that address in some way the issue of free will and explain how, in these theories, free will can influence human behavior